The South Carolina
Forest Steward
Summer 2010

In our summer issue of the South Carolina Forest Steward, there are articles on dealing with the growing feral hog problem in our state; the impact of low stumpage prices on forest management; the results of a new study on the economic impact of sport hunting in two Lowcountry counties; this season's southern pine beetle outlook; information on upcoming workshops and conferences on feral hog management and longleaf pine as well as the quarterly timber price summary from Timber Mart-South.

Due to reductions in the state budget, we are attempting to reduce our printing and mailing costs for the Forest Steward. We are encouraging our readers to receive the newsletter by email or to access it online. If you would like to receive an electronic copy via email, please send your email address to Jason Caudill at caudill@clemson.edu. If you prefer to access the newsletter online, please go to the Forest Stewardship Newsletter link at: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/natural_resources/forestry/forest_steward_newsletters.html. Back issues are also available at the same location.

Jason Caudill, Extension Forester, Oconee County
Bob Franklin, Extension Forester, Colleton County
Co-Editors

Redheaded Pine Sawfly

Howard Hiller, County Extension Agent, Oconee County

A few days ago a forest landowner brought some young pine tree branches into the office that were covered in a worm that was defoliating the branches. It turned out to be larvae of the Redheaded Pine Sawfly, a serious pest of young pines here in the southeast. To give a little background on this pest, the redheaded pine sawfly occurs throughout the eastern United States and in Southeastern Canada. Serious outbreaks and the killing of trees were not common until the establishment of pine plantations. Preferred hosts include loblolly, slash, longleaf, shortleaf and several other pines. White pine can also be attacked if they are near these. They normally attack young trees below 15 feet tall. Feeding in large numbers will quickly defoliate a young pine and can result in death or severe setback of the tree. In the southeast United States, there are two to five generations of this pest each year.

Redheaded Pine Sawfly adult. Photo by Lacy L. Hyche, Auburn University, Bugwood.org.

Complete defoliation kills small trees. Partial defoliation results in poor diameter growth and stunted height growth. Defoliated tree branches often die. Outbreaks occur periodically and tend to subside after a few years of heavy defoliation. There are numerous parasitic and predatory insects that play an important role in keeping this pest under control but in certain instances chemical control may be necessary.

Landowners with young stands should check their young stands periodically for signs of infestation. The larvae will grow up to about one inch long and varies from pale yellow to bright yellow. When fully grown, the larvae will have a bright red head. When young it will be a brownish transparent head. The body has two to four rows of black spots on each side of the abdomen. The last abdominal segment has a large black patch on each side. These markings make identification fairly easy.

Landowners may need to use an insecticide in some instances. Carbaryl (Sevin) 50%, BT products and the Pyrethroids should do a good job in getting them under control. In many cases spot spraying should be all that is needed.

Redheaded Pine Sawfly larva. Photo by Albert Mayfield, Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Bugwood.org.

Hunting Contributes Significantly to Rural Economics

Dr. Greg Yarrow, Professor of Wildlife Ecology & Extension Wildlife Specialist, Clemson University

Hunters and fisherman contribute over $1.5 billion each year to the state's economy. A recent study completed by Clemson University updated a previous study conducted in the early 90's to examine the economic impact of hunting on the local level. The study was conducted in Allendale and Jasper counties to 1) estimate annual county-level economic impacts of hunting, 2) determine the needs of landowners that provide hunting access on their lands, 3) determine the needs of sportsmen that utilize private lands for hunting, 4) examine the demographics of landowners and hunters, and 5) determine if the downturn in the economy has had any impact on hunting related expenditures.

Survey responses indicated that the majority (78.9% in Allendale County and 60.8% in Jasper County) of private landowners allowed some form of hunting on their lands. In Allendale County, landowners that allowed hunting owned 78.3% of the private land acreage and 91.6% in Jasper County. Over two-thirds (68.6%) of the private land in Allendale County is leased, while over one-third in Jasper County is leased. During the 2008-2009 hunting season, an estimated 3,752 sportsmen hunted on private land in Allendale County, in Jasper County 4,596. Few (5.4%) of Allendale County private land hunters resided in the county. In Jasper County over one-quarter (26.8%) of respondents indicated that they lived in the county. Half (50.0%) of Allendale County hunters live in South Carolina, but not in the county. In Jasper County nearly one-quarter (24.4%) of the hunters live in the state, but not in Jasper County. In both counties many of the private land hunters (44.6% in Allendale County and 46.3% in Jasper County) live outside of South Carolina.

By expanding on responses from landowner and hunter surveys, the following county-level estimates were made for the 2008-2009 hunting season:

- Total in-county private land hunter expenditures were $27,437,350 in Allendale County and $56,736,126 in Jasper County.
- Allendale and Jasper County private land hunters spent $9,231,310 and $13,974,132, respectively, outside of their county.
- Allendale and Jasper County landowners spent $2,004,316 and $3,803,811, respectively, to manage wildlife on their lands.
- In order to provide hunter services and facilities, Allendale County landowners spent $1,771,313 and Jasper County landowners spent $2,208,771.
- Private land hunters in Allendale County had an economic impact of $36,247,607 on the state's economy and in Jasper County $86,416,556.
- The economic downturn had a marginal impact on hunter expenditures and landowner revenues between the 2007-2008 and the 2008-2009 hunting seasons.

For more information about this study contact Dr. Greg Yarrow at Clemson University (gyarrow@clemson.edu; 864-656-7370).

Waging War on Feral Hogs

W. Cory Heaton, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent

Feral hogs are one of the earliest exotic invasive species to find their way to the Southeastern United States. Original descendants accompanied Spanish conquistadors on their journeys throughout Florida and the South. These swine managed to escape or were released, and undoubtedly their blood still flows in many of the modern feral hogs. The introduction of domesticated swine breeds into the wild was inevitable, as early swine farming practices revolved around open range pasturing. Later in history and up to present day, the pursuit of wild hogs for sport would entice hunting preserves to import and release large European stock for the thrill of the hunt. The Russian boar, or more accurately the Eurasian boar, first entered the US in 1890. These swine were released on a 20,000 acre hunting enclosure in New Hampshire. Today we are faced with feral hogs that can and do express genes from all of these early ancestors.

The diverse genetics and adaptability of the feral hog has allowed the species to expand its range and survive in almost any condition found in the US. In addition, feral hogs are extremely successful in their reproductive efforts. I have heard on numerous occasions that the average litter size for feral hogs is 6, but usually all of them make it to mature adults. Feral hogs are often capable of reproducing before they are a year old. They are capable of producing 2 litters per year, and litter size appears to increase with increased food availability.

Damage

Throughout the US and parts of Canada, feral hogs are destroying or disrupting natural habitats. It is unknown how many plant communities have been completely eliminated by the destructive rooting behavior of feral swine, nor do we know the full extent to which native wildlife populations have suffered as a result of the feral hog's presence.

Each year farmers endure millions of dollars in losses to agriculture crops due to feral hogs. "Sounders," feral hog family groups consisting of 5 to 50 or more individuals, can quickly make short work of most row crops. They are fully capable of destroying an entire peanut field in a single night, and if they don't get it the first night, they will undoubtedly finish it in the following. In addition to crop damage, hogs disrupt the soil in such a fashion that farmers must undergo the expense of grading and leveling fields before normal agricultural practices can be reinstated.

The potential negative impacts feral hogs pose to the livestock industry are astounding, especially to the pork industry. The spread of swine brucellosis and pseudo-rabies from feral to domestic swine could essentially put many farms out of business and quite possibly eliminate the industry all together. Brucellosis is particularly a concern, as the disease is readily transferable from swine to humans.

Current Range

Currently the feral hog is found in 39 states and 4 Canadian Provinces (Higginbotham 2009). If left to their own devices, feral hogs would spread up and down major drainages. Relocations or stocking of feral hogs may offer an explanation to the occurrences of feral hogs away from major drainages, and may also help explain how they have expanded their range so rapidly in many states. Feral hogs now occur in 42 of South Carolina's 46 counties. They can be found from the sandy beaches of the barrier islands to the granite outcrops of the mountains, and nearly everywhere in between. Estimates of the state's current feral hog population are between 100,000 and 150,000 individuals, and the population is growing rapidly.

Feral Hog Management

Management of feral hog populations on private and government owned lands will become more and more important as feral hog populations expand throughout the state. While the government may have options that are unavailable to private land managers, both parties will struggle to maintain tolerable hog population levels. Feral hog eradication is not practical. Land managers will be forced to understand the concept of "tolerable," and strive to maintain the population at a tolerable level.

Numerous feral hog removal techniques are available for controlling the population. Strategies that have been proven effective at controlling feral hog numbers include: trapping, still hunting, dog hunting, night hunting, aerial gunning, thermal imaging and night vision weaponry, and others. Alone these techniques provide minimal effectiveness at controlling hog numbers, but when strategically combined they can successfully minimize populations to tolerable levels.

Private land managers in South Carolina can use a three-technique approach to successfully maintain a tolerable hog population. The application of still hunting, trapping, and dog hunting will provide the control desired in most situations. The most effective program involves still hunting prior to trapping, and dog hunting following trapping. It is of critical importance that still hunting stop several weeks before pre-baiting trap sites begins. During trapping sessions there should be minimal activity in the area. Dog hunting should immediately follow the trapping session while hogs are still visiting trap sites. Prior to beginning a feral hog management program, land managers should consult with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources regarding legalities of management practices in their game zone.

Still Hunting

In South Carolina game zones that allow baiting, still hunting can be very effective at controlling feral hogs. Hunting over bait tends to be most effective in the winter and late summer. During these two periods food resources tend to be very limited. The majority of hard mast crops are gone by the time winter arrives. Feral hogs have been feeding heavily on acorn masts through the fall, and readily accept corn as soon as the acorns are gone. The end of summer brings drought conditions which in turn halts the productivity and quality of grasses and forbs. Late summer still hunts are generally uneventful until the last few minutes of daylight, as hogs become almost exclusively nocturnal during the warmer months. In addition, field crops are generally taller than feral hogs by the mid-summer, and it can be extremely difficult to spot hogs moving through crops. Feral hogs can also be successfully hunted in the fall, but it can be difficult to attract

them to bait piles. If this is a problem, a quick scouting trip can provide information on which oak trees are dropping acorns, and which trees are being used. These natural acorn bait piles can often be more productive than a corn or bait station.

When still hunting feral hogs it is critical to work with the wind. While the vision of the feral hog is poor and the hearing is moderate at best, the scenting ability of hogs is better than any deer or dog that I have seen. Precautions should be taken to avoid leaving human scent in areas that are intended for hunting locations.

Trapping

Trapping is an essential component to any hog management program. In a good program, the largest number of hogs removed from a property will come from trapping practices. Trapping will allow the land manager to remove entire sounders at one time. While it is impossible to trap all the hogs in an area, you can capture the majority if you do everything right.

Prior to trapping it is essential to pre-bait the trap site. Corn, sorghum, sweet feed, and a wide array of commercial hog attractants can be used to attract feral hogs to trap sites. Trap sites may need to be pre-baited for several weeks before actually setting the traps. Bait should be applied all around the outside of the trap, through the trap entrance, and into the trap. Some of the most successful hog trappers utilize game cameras during the pre-baiting sessions. Cameras are monitored to show when all the hogs in a particular group are entering the trap. While the hogs may be feeding around the trap each day, it may take several days for the whole group to enter the trap. When the entire group is regularly entering the trap, baiting the outside of the trap should cease. Bait should now be applied heavily in the trap, primarily in the middle and back of the trap. After a couple days of this the trap can be set, and with any luck the entire group will enter on the first night the trap is set.

Trap design is very important to the success of the trapping program. One of the most common trap designs that I encounter are the small portable drop door traps. These traps are easy to build and simple to move. They should be avoided in your trapping program. Small traps allow only a couple of hogs to fit in at one time. When the door drops and catches 1 or 2 hogs, the 15 hogs standing outside the trap just received a college education in trap avoidance. It will be hard to get any hogs in the area to enter the trap again.

A good hog trap has several characteristics. A hog trap should be large, the bigger the better. The larger the trap the more comfortable hogs will feel when they are inside, and the easier it will be to get them all into the trap at one time. The trap should be round, not rectangular, and with no abrupt corners. A good round hog trap should have a diameter of no less than 30 feet. The wire used to build the trap should be heavy duty woven wire or heavy welded livestock panels. The fence should be at least 4 feet tall with taller heights preferred. Fence mesh size should be no larger than 4 inches by 4 inches, with 2 inches by 4 inches being preferred. These design recommendations are essential for a good trapping program. If your trap has abrupt corners, hogs will jump out. If your fence has large mesh size, pigs and shoalts will get out. If a hog gets out of a trap they have officially received a Doctorate degree in hog trapping, and will never enter a trap again!

There are a lot of door designs that are used on hog traps successfully. In my opinion the choice is up to you as to which you select. I prefer to use trap doors that allow multiple catches. There are several designs for one way doors, which allow a hog to go into a trap but not exit. This allows other hogs to continue to enter the trap. If you use a drop door trap, you are limited to only catching the hogs that come into the trap at the exact same time. If you have used a game camera during the pre-baiting session, you should be able to get most of the hogs in the trap before the door drops. I have also seen traps without doors be successful. These traps utilize a funnel opening similar to a fish basket. Hogs funnel their way into the trap and are unable to squeeze back out of the trap.

Hog trapping information is plentiful on the internet. A quick search will reveal information on trap sizes and designs, door sizes and designs, as well as information on trap site selection and pre-baiting. Texas A&M has a wonderful website dedicated to dealing with feral hogs. The site can be accessed at http://feralhog.tamu.edu.

Dog Hunting

Dog hunting can be a productive method of hog removal. Hunting with dogs allows the land manager to cover large areas in a short amount of time. Dogs are trained to trail hogs and hold them at bay until the hunter arrives to dispatch the hog. Good dog work can easily result in the removal of an entire sounder in a single day. Dogs become a major asset to the management plan after the cessation of still hunting and trapping sessions. Following still hunting and trapping, feral hogs that remain on the property are very cautious of human scent and most have been educated on traps. This makes it difficult to remove the remaining hogs. Remaining hogs can be removed with the use of a good pack of dogs.

Prior to dog hunting, I recommend pre-baiting with game cameras. Images captured on these cameras will provide information on how many hogs are still on the property, and where they are located. Dog hunting is most effective when the location of hogs is known prior to unleashing the dogs. Instead of the hunter spending all day searching the property for fresh hog sign, he can quickly go to the areas that cameras indicated heavy hog presence.

Speed is the key to high number removal of hogs during dog hunts. Feral hogs will typically be in small groups during this time. Generally, the dogs will only be able to hold 1-2 hogs at bay at one time. The hunter needs to quickly make it to the bay, dispatch the hogs, and quickly get the dogs back on track. Hogs that were not held at bay quickly leave the scene, so the faster the dogs can get back on those hogs the better the chances of them catching them again. Information from game cameras should provide you with a pretty close estimate of how many hogs were in the group when the dogs were first unleashed. You should try to get as many of the known hogs as possible during the same hunt. Once hogs get accustomed to dog hunting pressure, they will quickly develop very fast running gear, and they will leave the country on a dead run as soon as they hear a dog. It can be very difficult for a dog to catch a running hog, and each time that hog is run it becomes more and more difficult.

Closing

While it is impossible to remove all feral hogs from any given property, tolerable levels can be achieved. Proper use of three techniques discussed above will provide the control needed. Land managers will have to remain diligent in their control efforts.

If you have any questions regarding the management of feral hogs on your property, feel free to contact your local county extension agent.

Feral Hog Management Workshop

A workshop entitled "Feral Hog Management in the Southeast" will be held at the Sandhill Research and Education Center in Columbia on August 17, 2010. The workshop will provide information on wild hog history, biology, and ecology; wild hog trapping techniques, trap design, and removal methods; and feral swine diseases, parasites, and potential implications to humans and domestic livestock.

The registration fee is $20 until August 3rd, $30 after the 3rd. For more information or to register, go to www.clemson.edu/fnrce or contact Susan Guynn at (864) 656-0606.

How will low stumpage prices affect your forest management?

Dr. Tamara Cushing, Assistant Professor & Extension Forestry Specialist, Clemson University

I don't have to tell you that stumpage prices are low. Anyone who has thought about selling timber in the last couple of years is aware that prices have been on the decline. Stumpage prices are cyclical over the long-term. That may not make you feel any better if you want to sell now. If you have dry land during wet weather, you may not even agree that prices are low! But what should you do if stumpage prices are low and it is time for either a thinning or final harvest? Let me give you a few things to chew on as you read.

Stepping away from timber a minute, what is your reaction when gasoline prices quickly increase? Do you stop driving? Do you sell your truck or SUV? Most of us do not react this way. Recently when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf coast, gas prices quickly increased to close to $4 per gallon (more in some parts of the country). Sure, we all complained, but at the end of the day most people continued to behave as they had when gas prices were $2 per gallon. So if we didn't change behavior for quick increases in gas prices why would you for thinning your timber?

If your management plan calls for a thinning or final harvest, how much influence are you going to let prices play in that decision? A management plan tells you when you should do an operation for biological and/or financial reasons. Now, the management plan gives you a year, but really there is some flexibility in timing. Generally with a thinning you have a window of 2-3 years in which you can still receive optimal biological response to the thinning. The goal of a thinning is to open up the stand and free resources up for your crop trees. The longer the trees stay in a limited resource environment, the lower the response to the thinning will be. As far as the financial reasons, there is the cost of waiting. Money received from a thinning or final harvest can be invested in another asset for a greater return or in the case of a final harvest, a new stand can be started. Final harvests can be delayed, however, a stand started today will have the benefit of improvements in genetics. Why continue a stand that is only increasing in volume and no longer has the benefit of changing product classes? Reforestation incentives that exist now should also play into your decision. Those incentives may not be available in future years. You must also consider the risk that something could happen to the standing timber.

The question to ask yourself is "At what price am I willing to sell my timber?" Is it possible for the

stumpage price to increase to that level in that 2-3 year window for a thinning? Remember prices increase much slower than they dropped! What you must always come back to is your objective. Are you trying to grow pulpwood or sawtimber? If you answered sawtimber, then you should focus on that goal when you are delaying a thinning. Too long of a delay could cost you in sawtimber volume.

When prices do start coming up, the phenomenon known as the "wall of wood" will hit. Landowners who were unhappy with current stumpage prices and chose not to cut will decide to cut when prices go up. In addition, those with CRP plantations will be thinning and harvesting. This sudden willingness to cut will potentially flood the market with timber. If (when) this happens, the price will go back down as a function of supply and demand. What may change in the meantime is the development of other opportunities for smaller diameter trees. Competition for those trees will help landowners receive a better price.

All of this is just to say that you should consider the impacts of waiting for stumpage prices to go up. Consider the biological and financial consequences. Be realistic in your expectations regarding prices.

Longleaf Alliance Regional Conference now to be held in Columbia

The Longleaf Alliance's Eighth Regional Conference originally scheduled for October 12-15 in Wilmington, NC, will now be held in Columbia instead.

The location of the Longleaf Alliance conference was changed due to construction delays at the conference center in Wilmington.

"We are absolutely delighted that the Longleaf Alliance conference will be held here in the Palmetto State," said Johnny Stowe, heritage preserve manager, wildlife biologist and forester with the SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Registration will be opening soon.

The conference will be centered at the Columbia Marriott at 1200 Hampton Street. Field trips, a major part of the meeting, will be held in the McBee/Patrick area, in large part on the SC Forestry Commission's Sand Hills State Forest and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge. There will be outings to private lands in the area. Field trips will focus on both the ecological and the cultural and economic aspects (such as pine straw raking, hunting leases and timber) of longleaf pine ecosystems.

The Longleaf Alliance is a grassroots organization formed in 1995 to serve as a clearinghouse for information on regenerating, restoring and managing longleaf pine forests; provide networking opportunities for its members to connect with other landowners, managers and researchers with similar interests and problems; and coordinate technical meetings and education seminars.

Stowe said longleaf pine savannas, woodlands and forests have phenomenal biodiversity. "It is among the richest array of plants and animals in the temperate world," Stowe said, "and of course, intact, frequently burned longleaf ecosystems are highly productive wildlife habitat, especially for grassland birds like bobwhite quail. Not only that, but longleaf is a great investment for risk-averse landowners, since it produces high-value products like telephone poles and prime lumber, and is relatively resistant to insects, diseases, wildfire and wind-damage."

For additional details on conference registration, go to www.longleafalliance.org.

Southern Pine Beetle Outlook for 2010

Laurie Reid, Forest Health Program Coordinator, South Carolina Forestry Commission

We have completed the 2010 Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) pheromone trapping. A total of 27 S.C. counties were trapped for SPB in 2010 using protocol devised by Billings, et al. This protocol includes monitoring three (3) pheromone traps in each county for a 28-day period during early spring. In two counties, Charleston and Georgetown, only 1 trap was active. Insects captured in each trap are returned to the laboratory for analysis. The total number of SPB for each trap is determined as well as the percentage of SPB to clerid beetles. Since clerid beetles are major predators of SPB, the percentage of clerid beetles trapped is factored into insect population projections. Based on this trapping, a population prediction trend is determined for each county. In the past, such surveys have had a success rate of over 80% in predicting the degree of SPB infestation during the following summer. Last year we predicted that losses could occur in one (1) county, Abbeville. Although we had beetle activity in many counties, it was at low levels.

We predict none of the counties trapped this year to experience a severe Southern Pine Beetle outbreak. This is the same prediction as last year. This year Oconee county trapped sufficient beetles to receive a prediction of static-moderate pine mortality. In this county we can expect a few scattered beetle spots. The other 28 counties we sampled had few beetles trapped and are not expected to have widespread problems.

These counties include Abbeville, Anderson, Beaufort, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Colleton, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Georgetown, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union, and York.

Statewide, the number of Southern Pine Beetles trapped increased by 73% from last year's total and the number of clerids increased slightly by 12%. This clerid population is still high and should constrain SPB development in most areas, including those with some predicted beetle activity.

In the piedmont, Oconee County has experienced very low level of SPB activity for the last several years. We expect the clerids will continue to hold the SPB level down and beetle spots that occur should spread slowly and be fairly easy to control.

In the coastal plain counties, we trapped very few beetles. The low trap levels of this year indicate unfavorable conditions for SPB development. Historically, outbreaks in the coastal plain occur shortly after climatological changes. The change is usually from drought to excess soil moisture. This pattern of precipitation has occurred during the last few years, and some pines have been dying. However, in most locations, the culprits have been either Black Turpentine beetles or Ips engraver beetles. There were several small Southern Pine Beetle spots last year several coastal counties.

These trapping data results are for entire counties and there is always the possibility of sporadic and localized beetle activity in counties with overall predictions of low population levels. Activity is most likely in susceptible pine stands that are overstocked, overmature or stagnant, have poor drainage or have littleleaf, annosus, or other root diseases present and causing stress.

As mentioned above, Ips and Black Turpentine Beetles continue to cause mortality in overstocked stands and in areas where excessive rainfall coupled with impermeable hardpan caused some drowning of roots. A summer drought was also responsible for some stress that led to attack by these less aggressive beetles. Since these insects require different control tactics than SPB, it is important to determine which insect is causing each infestation. Ips beetles are identifiable by their galleries that are usually H or I shaped rather than the winding galleries of Southern Pine Beetles. Adult Ips beetles also eject the frass from their galleries while the SPB packs its galleries with frass. Black Turpentine Beetles attack the basal portions of the trunk and are a much slower killer than SPB or Ips. We can assist with this identification or provide training where needed. Last summer we evaluated multiple stands that were harvested due to Ips and Black Turpentine Beetle activity.

In summary, most of South Carolina can expect a year of no to minimal loss to southern pine beetle and related bark beetles. However, Oconee County may be poised for some degree of loss, especially if we have additional stress factors. Control by commercial salvage is effective in stopping any of the bark beetles infesting pines. Another possibility for control of Southern Pine Beetle only is the cut and leave technique. In this control strategy, infested trees and a buffer of apparently uninfested pines are cut but not necessarily salvaged. This method works best from May – October due to high daytime temperatures and SPB biological factors. This is not effective for Ips or BTB spots since those insects breed and mature easily in cut pines or stumps.

It is difficult to predict the degree of loss to SPB since environmental factors affect this. However, our best guess for SC for 2010 is for a loss of less than one million dollars. As usual, a hot summer with extended temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit should constrain SPB development.

Forest Stewardship Program

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is a FREE technical service program designed to encourage multiple resource management on private non-industrial forestlands. FSP encourages wise use of all forest-related activities including timber management, wildlife habitat management, recreation, aesthetics, grazing, and soil and water conservation. WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Private landowners who own more than 10 acres, with at least 5 acres of the tract in forestland. SERVICES PROVIDED: Free technical assistance from a professional forester and wildlife biologist, a 10 year written management plan, subscription to the South Carolina Forest Stewards newsletter, and recognition as a Stewardship Forest landowner.

CONTACT: The SC Forestry Commission Forest Stewardship Coordinator, Scott Phillips, at 803-896-8844; Lynn Leclair, PeeDee Region Stewardship Forester at 843-662-5571; Vaughan Spearman, Coastal Region Stewardship Forester at 843-538-3708; Jamie Jones, Piedmont Region Stewardship Forester at 803-276-0205 or your local South Carolina Forestry Commission area office.

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Timber Mart-South

Here is the second quarter, 2010 price summary from Timber Mart-South, published by the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. The prices shown are **statewide** ranges of stumpage (standing timber) and the trend (Up or Down) from the previous quarter. These prices reflect the average range of stumpage prices reported to Timber Mart-South for the quarter. The price you may receive for your timber can and will vary due to factors such as size of timber, amount, location to mills, access and demand. If you'd like more information on the TimberMart-South price reporting service, call (706) 542-4756 or visit the website at: www.TimberMart-South.com.

Timber Mart-South 2nd Quarter, 2010
South Carolina

Pine Sawtimber: $186-$261 MBF (per thousand board feet Scribner log scale) ($24.82-$34.83/Ton). Trend is Down.

Pine Chip-N-Saw: $41.17-$61.83/Cord ($15.36-$23.07/Ton). Trend is Up.

Pine Pulpwood: $21.08-$29.35/Cord ($7.87-$10.95/Ton) Trend is Down.

Questions about this newsletter, submissions and requests for subscriptions should be directed to: Editor, Forest Steward Newsletter, Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service, Department of Forest Resources, 272 Lehotsky Hall, Box 340317, Clemson, SC 29634-0317. Phone: 864/656-2479.

The Forest Steward

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CLEMSON EXTENSION

The South Carolina Forest Steward Newsletter is sponsored by the Forest Stewardship Program in South Carolina. The South Carolina Forest Steward is compiled and edited by Bob Franklin, Area Forestry & Wildlife Agent, Walterboro, South Carolina, and Jason Caudill, County Extension Agent, Oconee County, South Carolina.

SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION